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INTERNATIONAL

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Migrant Whimbrels Tracked to Northern Breeding Grounds



Photo: Harold Stiver

12 June 2009 – Five Whimbrels have been tracked from a migratory staging area in Virginia to their breeding grounds near Hudson Bay in Canada, using satellite transmitters. The birds took from four to seven days to fly up to 2800 km. The tracking project, conducted by the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary – Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia chapter of The Nature Conservancy, is part of an ongoing research effort to identify migratory routes and staging areas that are critical to the conservation of this declining species. Updated tracking maps may be viewed on the [Center for Conservation Biology website](#).

To learn more about Bird Studies Canada's Bald Eagle and Short-eared Owl satellite tracking programs, visit the [Destination Eagle](#) and [Owl Tracker](#) web pages.

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NATIONAL

Annonce des récipiendaires des bourses d'études 2009

Le 19 juin 2009 – ÉOC est fier d'annoncer le nom des récipiendaires des bourses d'études de 2009. Ces bourses sont ouvertes à tout étudiant inscrit à une université canadienne et effectuant un projet de recherche sur les oiseaux.

La bourse James L. Baillie, financée par ÉOC à partir des revenus du Baillie Birdathon, est ouverte aux étudiants qui effectueront un projet de recherche sur une espèce d'oiseaux nicheurs du Canada dans son milieu naturel. La bourse 2009 a été décernée à David Swan de l'University of Western Ontario. Son projet de doctorat vise à évaluer si des femelles Vacher à tête brune parasitent les mêmes individus de Bruant chanteur lors de leur deuxième nichée.

Ce projet sera mené à deux endroits près de Victoria sur l'Île de Vancouver, en Colombie-Britannique.

La bourse Fred Cooke est offerte conjointement par ÉOC et la Société des ornithologistes du Canada. Elle subventionne une partie des frais associés à la participation à une conférence ou pour effectuer un projet de recherche en ornithologie. Cette année, la récipiendaire est Calandra Stanley de York University. Dans le cadre de son projet de maîtrise, elle voyagera au Costa Rica afin d'étudier l'habitat utilisé par la Grive des bois sur son aire d'hivernage. De plus, elle équipera quelques individus de géolocalisateurs afin d'en apprendre davantage sur leur voie de migration et d'identifier leur région de nidification.

La bourse Junco Technologies est ouverte aux étudiants qui mèneront des études de terrain au Canada sur des espèces d'oiseaux cavicoles. L'argent de cette bourse doit être utilisé pour acheter de l'équipement nécessaire pour le projet. Malheureusement, en 2009, aucun candidat n'a rempli les critères de la bourse. En conséquence, deux bourses seront disponibles en 2010.

Les formulaires de demande de bourses sont disponibles sur le site Internet de [la Société des ornithologistes du Canada](#). La prochaine date limite est le 15 février 2010.

2009 Student Research Award Recipients Announced

19 June 2009 – BSC is pleased to announce the 2009 student research award recipients. The James L. Baillie Student Award for Field Research, funded by BSC with Baillie Birdathon proceeds, is open to any student conducting ornithological research at a Canadian university on Canadian birds in their natural environment. The 2009 award went to David Swan of University of Western Ontario, for Ph.D. field research investigating whether individual female Brown-headed Cowbirds parasitize the re-nesting attempts of host Song Sparrows at two sites on Vancouver Island near Victoria, BC.

The Fred Cooke Student Research Award, offered jointly by BSC and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, supports a Canadian university student's ornithological conference travel or research activities. 2009 recipient Calandra Stanley, an M.Sc. student at York University, will travel to Costa Rica to study the wintering habitat of Wood Thrush and put geolocators on some individuals to identify the locations of their breeding grounds and their migration pathways.

The Junco Technologies Award, sponsored by Junco Technologies Inc., is open to a student at a Canadian university doing field research in Canada on cavity-nesting birds, with funds to be used to purchase field equipment. No award was given out in 2009 as there were no applicants fulfilling the grant requirements. As a result, two awards will be available in 2010.

Award applications are available on the [Society of Canadian Ornithologists website](#). The next deadline is February 15, 2010.

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REGIONAL

BSC Holds Ontario-Wide Chimney Swift "Blitz"

18 June 2009 – Each evening as dusk approaches, you may notice small birds chirping overhead, circling tall chimneys. If these birds are cigar-shaped, with relatively long pointed wings and a quick, jerky flight – and if they dive at (and then into) a chimney around sunset – you likely have Chimney Swifts in your neighbourhood.

BSC is inviting Ontario residents to help look for Chimney Swifts next weekend, as part of a province-wide "blitz." Volunteers in communities throughout Ontario will spend an evening watching a local chimney or similar manmade structure for signs of swifts. The goals are to increase our knowledge of Chimney Swift activity, and to raise awareness of the plight of the Chimney Swift, a federally Threatened species whose population has declined

in Canada by 96% over the last 40 years.

You can help researchers investigate Ontario's Chimney Swift population, and identify critical Chimney Swift habitats, by choosing a single night between June 26-28, and watching a chimney where swifts may nest or roost. Start your monitoring period 20 minutes before sunset, and continue until you see the last bird entering the chimney. Email your findings, including the location of your chimney, and the total number of birds you saw entering it (even if this number is zero) to hwheeler@birdscanada.org.

Observations from the Chimney Swift "Blitz" and Bird Studies Canada's SwiftWatch monitoring and research program will help scientists develop recovery strategies for this species.

NS Beaches and Dunes Stewardship Guide Released



Photo: Sue Abbott

10 June 2009 – Sue Abbott, BSC's Coordinator for the **Nova Scotia Piping Plover Conservation Program**, has produced a stewardship guide for landowners whose properties include sandy beaches and dunes. These coastal systems are essential nesting habitat for endangered Piping Plovers, and are also crucial year-round for many other wildlife and plant species. *Healthy Beaches and Dunes for Tomorrow: A Stewardship Guide for Nova Scotia Landowners* provides information to help you protect these valuable economic, ecological, and cultural resources – whether you own, care for, or visit a sandy beach property. The 28-page, full-colour guide book is available in print by contacting Sue Abbott at nsplovers@gmail.com or (902) 426-4055, or you can **visit our website to download the document** as a PDF.

We thank Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources' Habitat Conservation and Species at Risk Conservation Funds, Parks Canada, the Shell Environmental Fund, and Sage Environmental Program for supporting the development and printing of the stewardship guide, and the Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk for core program funding in Nova Scotia.

BBS Volunteer Honoured



Photo: Stan Moeller

6 June 2009 – A special presentation was made to a long-time Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)

volunteer at the banquet of the Nature NB annual general meeting. David Christie of Hillsborough, NB was recognized for having run over 100 BBS routes since the survey started in 1966. David is only the third person in Canada to ever reach the 100 mark. The presentation was made by Tony Erskine, who was the original coordinator of the BBS in the Maritimes and the national BBS coordinator for some time. Since 1966, David has run a number of different BBS routes in NB, but the route he has run the most often is Penobsquis. In honour of his long-standing commitment to the survey and his many contributions as a volunteer, David was presented with a carving of a Red-eyed Vireo, carved by award-winning New Brunswick-based carver Jim Edsall. The Red-eyed Vireo is number eight on David's top 10 list of most commonly counted birds on his Penobsquis route.

The presentation was sponsored jointly by Environment Canada and Bird Studies Canada. The North American Breeding Bird Survey is coordinated in Canada by Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and is one of the continent's most valuable sources of bird trend information. In the Maritimes, Becky Whittam of Bird Studies Canada coordinates volunteers for NB, NS, and PE. Currently, some 500 BBS routes are run each year in Canada. However, there are many more participants needed to fill vacant routes or to replace those who have retired. If you are able to identify all species by sight or by sound, have good hearing, and are willing to donate one day or more a year to the Breeding Bird Survey, please contact us. For more information on the Breeding Bird Survey, visit the [CWS website](#).

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